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# CIA faces questions as defector Yurchenko leaves

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WASHINGTON — KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko flew home to the Soviet Union yesterday, leaving his U.S. handlers facing a barrage of questions about how and why he became a two-time turncoat.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has asked the Central Intelligence Agency to appoint an independent investigator into the way the 49-year-old spymaster was handled during his three months in U.S. custody, which ended in one of the most dramatic defections in super-power espionage history. Mr. Yurchenko simply excused himself from a CIA dinner table last Saturday and walked into the Soviet compound here.

A CIA spokeswoman refused to make any comment on the Yurchenko case, which is developing into one of the agency's worst embarrassments of recent years.

The State Department has publicly attributed Mr. Yurchenko's defection to "personal reasons" — a broken romance and trouble with his 16-year-old son have been cited — but has not completely ruled out the possibility that he was a double

agent.

The double-agent theory, however, is undermined by the repeated polygraph tests he submitted to, and by the assessment of damage his disclosures reportedly have done to KGB operations.

President Reagan said yesterday that the information provided by Mr. Yurchenko "was not anything new or sensational" — a downbeat assessment that contrasted with earlier CIA claims of striking an intelligence "gold mine."

Mr. Yurchenko left for Moscow aboard the same Soviet jetliner that, earlier in the day, brought Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin back from attending Secretary of State George P. Shultz's meetings with Kremlin leaders.

Mr. Yurchenko paused briefly to wave to reporters before boarding the plane at Dulles airport with about 20 other returning Russians. He said nothing.

Intelligence committee sources said they expected a full report on the CIA investigation within six weeks.

"The agency is also very concerned about what happened. They are not going to produce a piece of trash for a report," said one commit-

tee official.

Among the questions the investigation could answer:

□ Why Mr. Yurchenko, reportedly at his own request, was taken for dinner to a Georgetown restaurant close to the new Soviet compound.

□ Was it normal practice for only one CIA agent to escort Mr. Yurchenko to the restaurant?

□ Were his handlers sufficiently sensitive in their approach? Did they, for instance, speak to him only in English during his stay in a CIA safe-house in Virginia? — a linguistic hardship he complained bitterly about during his Monday press conference at the Soviet Embassy.

□ If Mr. Yurchenko was having personal problems, was this recognized, and were adequate measures taken to reassure him?

□ Could Mr. Yurchenko be a double agent, planted to embarrass the administration in advance of the Geneva summit?

□ Who leaked to the press the information Mr. Yurchenko was giving to the CIA? The leaks reportedly infuriated Mr. Yurchenko. Some senators suspect the CIA passed on the information to demonstrate what a counterespionage coup it had pulled off in obtaining his cooperation.